

OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTER- NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

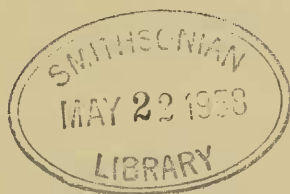
Edited by

FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.
Secretary to the Commission

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OPINION 515

Validation under the Plenary Powers of the generic
name *Aurelia* as from Lamarck, 1816 (Class Scyphozoa)



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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

COMPOSITION AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE RULING GIVEN IN OPINION 515

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Vice-President : Senhor Dr. Afranio do AMARAL (*Sao Paulo, Brazil*) (12th August 1953)

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(Arranged in order of precedence by reference to date of election or of most recent re-election, as prescribed by the International Congress of Zoology)

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Professor Ernst MAYR (*Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard College, Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.A.*) (4th December 1954)

Professor Enrico TORTONESE (*Museo di Storia Naturale "G. Doria", Genova, Italy*) (16th December 1954)

OPINION 515

VALIDATION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS OF THE GENERIC NAME "AURELIA" AS FROM LAMARCK, 1816 (CLASS SCYPHOZOA)

RULING :—(1) The following action is hereby taken under the Plenary Powers :—

(a) The generic name *Aurellia* Péron & Lesueur, [1810], is hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy.

(b) The generic name *Aurelia* is hereby validated as from Lamarck, 1816, with *Medusa aurita* Linnaeus, 1758, as type species.

(2) The under-mentioned generic name is hereby placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* with the Name No. 1268 :—

Aurelia Lamarck, 1816, as validated under the Plenary Powers in (1)(b) above (gender : feminine) (type species, by designation under the Plenary Powers in (1)(b) above : *Medusa aurita* Linnaeus, 1758)

(3) The under-mentioned specific name is hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* with the Name No. 1512 :—

aurita Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Medusa aurita* (specific name of type species of *Aurelia* Lamarck, 1816)

(4) The under-mentioned generic name is hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* with the Name No. 1157 :—

Aurellia Péron & Lesueur, [1810], as suppressed under the Plenary Powers in (1)(a) above

(5) The under-mentioned specific name is hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology* with the Name No. 519 :—

rosea Péron & Lesueur, [1810], as published in the combination *Aurellia rosea* (a junior objective synonym of *aurita* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Medusa aurita*)

(6) The under-mentioned family-group name is hereby placed on the *Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology* with the Name No. 222 :—

AURELIIDAE (correction of AURELIDAE) Agassiz (J.L.R.), 1862 (type genus : *Aurelia* Lamarck, 1816)

(7) The under-mentioned family-group name is hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology* with the Name No. 262 :—

AURELIDAE Agassiz (J.L.R.), 1862 (type genus *Aurelia* Lamarck, 1816) (an Invalid Original Spelling for AURELIIDAE)

I. THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On 18th October 1955, Dr. W. J. Rees (*British Museum (Natural History), London*) addressed a preliminary enquiry to the Office

of the Commission on the question of the possible use of the Plenary Powers for the purpose of preserving the well-known generic name *Aurelia* Lamarck, 1816 (Class Scyphozoa) which had recently been rejected by certain workers in favour of the previously overlooked name *Aurellia* Péron & Lesueur, [1810]. Following correspondence between the Secretary and Dr. Rees and after consultation also with Professor L. W. Grensted, Consulting Classical Adviser to the International Commission, the following definitive application was submitted by Dr. Rees on 17th January 1956 :—

**Proposed validation under the Plenary Powers of the generic name
“Aurelia ” Lamarck, 1816 (Class Scyphozoa)**

By W. J. REES, D.Sc.

(*British Museum (Natural History), London*)

The object of the present application is to ask the International Commission to use its Plenary Powers to validate the generic name *Aurelia* Lamarck, 1816. This name is known to every zoologist and the genus so named appears in every textbook as a typical genus. The need for preventing the disappearance of this name on technical nomenclatorial grounds is therefore self-evident. The facts of this case are set out briefly in the following paragraphs.

2. In 1816 (*Hist. nat. Anim. sans Vertèbr.* 2 : 512—514) Lamarck published the generic name *Aurelia*, placing eight nominal species in the genus so named. The third of these species, which Lamarck called by the vernacular (French) name “Aurélié rose” and by the Latin name *Aurelia aurita* (= *Medusa aurita* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 660), the Common Jellyfish of European waters. This species is always treated as being representative of this genus.

3. The difficulty in connection with this name is that, as Lamarck himself clearly shows, it was not published by him as a new name, being only a variant spelling with a single “l” for the name *Aurellia* (with a double “l”) published by Péron & Lesueur six years earlier ([1810], *Ann. Mus. Hist. nat. Paris* 14(83) : 357). The third of the species placed by these authors in this genus was given by them the Latin name *Aurellia rosea* and the vernacular (French) name “Aurellie rose” (: 358). This species was stated to be the same as “*Medusa aurita* Müller, Zool. Icon. tab. LXXVI, fig. 1—3, et tabl.

LXXVII, fig. 1—5 (1780)”, i.e. *Medusa aurita* Linnaeus, 1758. This generic name lay dormant and neglected for exactly one hundred years, for it was not until 1910 (*Medusae of the World* 3 : 604, 618) that Mayer drew attention to it and substituted it for *Aurelia* Lamarck, 1816.

4. Since, as explained in the preceding paragraph, there is nomenclatorially no such generic name as *Aurelia* Lamarck as contrasted with *Aurellia* Péron & Lesueur, Lamarck’s variant *Aurelia* does not possess a type species and no type species can be assigned to it unless and until the name *Aurelia* is validated by the Commission under its Plenary Powers. The obvious choice as the type species of *Aurelia* is *Medusa aurita* Linnaeus, the species for which this name is always used.

5. The change in the spelling of this generic name from the long-established *Aurelia* to the barbarous and long-neglected *Aurellia*—as also the change in the attribution of this name from Lamarck to Péron & Lesueur—was fully justified under the normal provisions of the *Règles* and, as such, it has been followed in the last year or two by a few workers who were anxious to comply with the *Règles* but who did not realise that in a case such as the present it is both possible and desirable to seek relief through applying to the International Commission for the use of its Plenary Powers to preserve a well-known and long-established name. Fortunately, in the present case no harm has been done by the delay in bringing this matter to the attention of the Commission, for despite Mayer’s paper the spelling *Aurelia* has held its own, as also has the attribution of this name to Lamarck. It is very desirable that this name should be placed beyond the reach of further ambiguity and it is for this reason that the International Commission is now asked to suppress the name *Aurellia* Péron & Lesueur for the purposes of the Law of Priority, though not for those of the Law of Homonymy, thus validating the name *Aurelia* Lamarck.

6. Mayer in his *Medusae of the World* treated this genus as the type genus of a family-group taxon AURELINAE, which he treated as a subfamily of the family ULMARIDAE. The above family name dates back to Agassiz (J.L.R.) (1862, *Contrib. nat. Hist. U.S.A.*, Monogr. 2 (Part 3) : v, 80, 159), by whom it was used in the form AURELIDAE (i.e. as the name for a taxon of full family rank).

7. In correspondence on this subject Mr. Hemming took the view that the spelling AURELIDAE was defective, the correct spelling being AURELIIDAE (or AURELIINAE, according to the view taken as to the status of the family-group taxon so named). In order to dispose of any doubts on this subject Professor L. W. Grensted, the Consulting Classical Adviser to the International Commission, was asked to

furnish a Report on the question of the correct form for this name. The Report, dated 10th January 1956, furnished by Professor Grensted in response to the foregoing invitation, was as follows :—

The word *aurelia* is the feminine form of an old Italian word *aurelio* and was originally used for what is now a chrysalis (=Χρυσαλλίς). There are classical names (e.g. Marcus Aurelius) behind this word but it is not itself a classical Latin word. In any case it would be feminine in gender. The subfamily name cannot be anything except AURELIINAE. It is a perfectly normal case of a first declension noun in “-ia”.

8. It is evident in the circumstances that the form in which this family-group name should now be placed on the *Official List* is the corrected form and that the Invalid Original Spelling AURELIDAE must be placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Names in Zoology*.

9. For the reasons set out in the present application, the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is asked :—

(1) to use its Plenary Powers :—

(a) to suppress the generic name *Aurellia* Péron & Lesueur, [1810], for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy ;

(b) to validate the generic name *Aurelia* as from Lamarck, 1816 with *Medusa aurita* Linnaeus, 1758, as type species ;

(2) to place the under-mentioned generic name on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* : *Aurelia* Lamarck, 1816, as validated under the Plenary Powers under (1)(b) above (gender : feminine) (type species, by designation under the Plenary Powers under (1)(b) above) : *Medusa aurita* Linnaeus, 1758 ;

(3) to place the under-mentioned specific name on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* : *aurita* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Medusa aurita* (specific name of type species of *Aurelia* Lamarck, 1816) ;

(4) to place on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* the generic name specified in (1)(a) above as there suppressed under the Plenary Powers ;

(5) to place the under-mentioned specific name on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology* : *rosea* Péron & Lesueur, [1810], as published in the combination *Aurellia rosea* (a junior objective synonym of *aurita* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Medusa aurita*) ;

- (6) to place the under-mentioned family-group name on the *Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology* : AURELIIDAE (correction of AURELIDAE) Agassiz (J.L.R.), 1862 (type genus : *Aurelia* Lamarck, 1816) ;
- (7) to place the under-mentioned family-group name on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology* : AURELIDAE Agassiz (J.L.R.), 1862 (an Invalid Original Spelling for AURELIIDAE).

II. THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

2. Registration of the present application : Upon the receipt of Dr. Rees's preliminary enquiry, the question of the possible validation of the generic name *Aurelia* as from Lamarck, 1816 (Class Scyphozoa) was allotted the Registered No. Z.N.(S.) 1032.

3. Publication of the present application : The present application was sent to the printer on 23rd October 1956 and was published on 25th January 1957 in Part 1 of Volume 13 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (Rees, 1957, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **13** : 26—28).

4. Issue of Public Notices : Under the revised procedure prescribed by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **4** : 51—56), Public Notice of the possible use by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature of its Plenary Powers in the present case was given on 25th January 1957 (a) in Part 1 of Volume 13 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (the Part in which Dr. Rees's application was published) and (b) to the other prescribed serial publications. In addition, such Notice was given to four general zoological serial publications.

5. Comments Received : The publication of the present application and the issue of Public Notices in regard thereto elicited communications from five specialists (Brazil, one ; Denmark,

one ; United Kingdom, two ; U.S.A., one) all of whom intimated their support for the action proposed in this case. In addition, shortly before publication, one of the specialists who had recently reintroduced the spelling *Aurellia* in place of that of *Aurelia* addressed a letter to the Office of the Commission in which he explained that he had done so partly because he had thought it best to follow Mayer (1910) by whom the above spelling had been used and partly because he believed that this spelling was correct. The communications so received are reproduced in the immediately following paragraphs.

6. Support from P. L. Kramp (Zoologisk Museum, Copenhagen) : On 21st March 1957, Dr. Rees transmitted the following note of support, dated 13th March, from Dr. P. L. Kramp (*Zoologisk Museum, Copenhagen*) (Kramp, 1957, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **13** : 153) :—

I quite agree with you in this matter and hope that the Plenary Powers will be used.

7. Support from F. S. Russell (Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom, Plymouth) : On 21st March 1957, Dr. Rees transmitted the following note of support, dated 5th March 1957, from Dr. F. S. Russell (*Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom, Plymouth*) (Russell, 1957, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **13** : 103) :—

I have received from Dr. W. J. Rees a reprint of his proposal for the validation of the generic name *Aurelia* Lamarck. I have made a special study of medusae now for a great many years, and I should like to support very strongly Dr. Rees's proposal that the name *Aurellia* Péron & Lesueur should be suppressed, with the resulting alterations of the spelling of the family name.

8. Support received from James Horan (Marine Laboratory, Aberdeen) : On 1st April 1957, Dr. James Horan (*Marine Laboratory, Aberdeen*) addressed the following note of support to the Office of the Commission (Horan, 1957, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **13** : 153) :—

I write to give my emphatic support to the application submitted by Dr. W. J. Rees to validate the generic name *Aurelia* Lamarck, 1816.

9. Support received from C. Hand (Department of Zoology, University of California, U.S.A.) : On 9th April 1957, Dr. C. Hand (*Department of Zoology, University of California, U.S.A.*) addressed the following letter of support to the Office of the Commission (Hand, 1957, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **13** : 153) :—

I would like to urge the adoption of the suggestion put forth by Dr. Rees. This seems completely desirable to me since to return to the *Aurellia* of Péron and Lesueur is to return to an ill-formed name which, it appears, Lamarck properly corrected. That the type species be the *Medusa aurita* of Linnaeus seems obvious. Also since the two generic names *Aurellia* and *Aurelia* are so similar, it is more proper certainly to use the best formed of the pair, since it will only be the specialist who concerns himself here anyhow. To insist upon the application of the Law of Priority will necessitate the use of a very unfamiliar name for the well-known *aurita*. I therefore recommend the Commission to accept the arguments of Dr. Rees and use its Plenary Powers as he has suggested in items 1 to 7 of part 9 on page 28.

10. Support received from M. Vannucci (Istituto Oceanografico, Universidade de Sao Paulo, Brasil) : On 29th April 1957, Dr. M. Vannucci (*Instituto Oceanografico, Universidade de Sao Paulo, Brasil*) addressed the following letter of support to the Office of the Commission (Vannucci, 1957, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **13** : 199) :—

It seems to me advisable to validate the name *Aurelia* Lamarck, 1816, and suppress *Aurellia* Péron & Lesueur, [1810] ; the generic name *Aurelia* Lamarck, 1816, and the specific name *aurita* Linnaeus, 1758, as in the combination *Medusa aurita*, should be placed on the *Official Lists of Generic and Specific Names in Zoology*, respectively ; the generic name *Aurellia* should be rejected ; the specific name *rosea* Péron & Lesueur, [1810], as in the combination *Aurellia rosea*, should be considered a synonym of *A. aurita* Linnaeus, 1758, as in the above-mentioned combination *Medusa aurita* ; the family-group name to be placed on the *Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology* should be AURELIIDAE Agassiz, 1862 ; type genus : *Aurelia* Lamarck, 1816 ; the family-group name AURELIDAE should be rejected.

11. Comment by G. A. Horridge (Gatty Marine Laboratory, The University, St. Andrews, Scotland) : On 28th November 1956, Dr. G. A. Horridge (*Gatty Marine Laboratory, The University*,

St. Andrews, Scotland) sent the following comment to the Office of the Commission in regard to the present case :—

It is quite possible that my recent publications using the “ll” *Aurellia* have had some influence on the initiation of an application for the acceptance of the above name in its accustomed form with a single “l”. Accordingly, I should like to make known my reasons for using the original “ll” spelling. These were twofold. First in his comprehensive *Medusae of the World* A. G. Mayer, (1910) shows the synonymy and the history of the genus and concludes that the double “ll” form (Péron & Lesueur, [1810]) stands in precedence to the single form of Lamarck, 1816. Secondly, Bullock (*Journal of Comp. Cell. Physiol.* for 1943) uses *Aurellia* and he has a footnote which says that a personal communication from Bigelow confirms the double “ll” form as correct. There are also other recent authors who follow Mayer’s work rather than those of the nineteenth century scholars Haeckel and Lamarck, e.g. Verwey (1942, *Arch. néerl. Zool.* 6); and also Maaden (H. van der) (1942, *Arch. néerl. Zool.* 6).

When it became necessary to decide on one form or the other it seemed that the tide was turning towards the original and double “ll” form as set out by Mayer in the most recent monograph. The use of the word “outlandish” does not seem justified although most text-books use the single “l” form derived from nineteenth century workers who followed Lamarck.

III. THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

12. Issue of Voting Paper V.P.(57)50 : On 31st July 1957, a Voting Paper (V.P.(57)50) was issued in which the Members of the Commission were invited to vote either for, or against, “the proposal relating to the generic name *Aurelia* Lamarck, 1816, as set out in Points (1) to (7) in paragraph 9 on page 28 of Volume 13 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*” [i.e. in the paragraph numbered as above in the paper reproduced in the first paragraph of the present *Opinion*].

13. The Prescribed Voting Period : As the foregoing Voting Paper was issued under the Three-Month Rule, the Prescribed Voting Period closed on 31st October, 1957.

14. Particulars of the Voting on Voting Paper V.P.(57)50 : At the close of the Prescribed Voting Period, the state of the voting on Voting Paper V.P.(57)50 was as follows :—

(a) *Affirmative Votes had been given by the following twenty-four (24) Commissioners (arranged in the order in which Votes were received) :*

Bodenheimer ; Holthuis ; Mayr ; Hering ; Mertens ; Lemche ; Hankó ; Key ; Vokes ; Dymond ; Riley ; Bradley (J.C.) ; Esaki ; do Amaral ; Prantl ; Hemming ; Jaczewski ; Kühnelt ; Bonnet ; Boschma ; Sylvester-Bradley ; Tortonese ; Cabrera ; Miller ;

(b) *Negative Votes, one (1) :*

Stoll ;

(c) *Voting Papers not returned :*

None.

15. Declaration of Result of Vote : On 1st November 1957, Mr. Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission, acting as Returning Officer for the Vote taken on Voting Paper V.P.(57)50, signed a Certificate that the Votes cast were as set out in paragraph 14 above and declaring that the proposal submitted in the foregoing Voting Paper had been duly adopted and that the decision so taken was the decision of the International Commission in the matter aforesaid.

16. Preparation of the Ruling given in the present “ Opinion ” : On 9th January 1958, Mr. Hemming prepared the Ruling given

in the present *Opinion* and at the same time signed a Certificate that the terms of that Ruling were in complete accord with those of the proposal approved by the International Commission in its Vote on Voting Paper V.P.(57)50.

17. Original references for generic and specific names : The following are the original references for the generic and specific names placed on *Official Lists* and *Official Indexes* by the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* :

Aurelia Lamarck, 1816, *Hist. nat. Anim. sans Vertèbr.* **2** : 512—514

Aurellia Péron & Lesueur, [1810], *Ann. Mus. Hist. nat.*, Paris **14**(83) : 357

aurita, *Medusa*, Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) **1** : 660

rosea, *Aurellia*, Péron & Lesueur, [1810], *Ann. Mus. Hist. nat.*, Paris **14**(83) : 358

18. Original References for Family-Group Names : The following are the original references for the family-group names placed by the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* on the *Official List* and *Official Index* respectively for taxa belonging to the family-group category :—

AURELIDAE Agassiz (J.L.R.), 1862 (an Invalid Original Spelling for AURELIIDAE)

AURELIIDAE (correction of AURELIDAE) Agassiz (J.L.R.), 1862, *Contrib. nat. Hist. U.S.A.*, Mon. **2** (Part 3) : v, 80, 150

19. Compliance with Prescribed Procedures : The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the undersigned Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Com-

mission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

20. “**Opinion**” Number : The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion* Five Hundred and Fifteen (515) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Ninth day of January, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Eight.

*Secretary to the International Commission
on Zoological Nomenclature*

FRANCIS HEMMING